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Sen. Hardiman announces extra \$1 million for Grand Rapids hospitals

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Community Health budget that the Senate approved Tuesday includes an extra \$1 million for Grand Rapids hospitals, Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood.

The department's proposed budget provides more than \$800,000 for Spectrum Health hospitals, more than \$175,000 for Metropolitan Hospital and about \$75,000 for St. Mary's Mercy Medical Center.

"I'm pleased to see Michigan assist hospitals and health centers in my district in this difficult economic climate," Hardiman said. "This money aids the hospitals who care for so many of our area's neediest."

The money provides additional resources for hospitals that serve large numbers of Medicaid patients but haven't before been given extra money by the state to cover the relatively low reimbursement hospitals get for treating patients who use Medicaid. Medicaid is a federal-state program that serves disabled or low-income individuals and families.

The budget, Senate Bill 1063, now is being considered by the House of Representatives.

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